THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes,, Sir. Celular System is one of the technologies that is being considered for providing telephones in the rural areas.

(b) The Cellular System envisages provision of telephones by means of radio instead of using long overhead wires for providing telephone. This technology was initially used for urban areas in other countries and now this is being extended to rural areas for providing fast, reliable and fault free telephone service.

(c) Provision of telephone facilities in the rural areas is a priority item. Cellular technology is one of the various means with which this can be achieved. The actual technology to be used will depend upon techno-econo-mic studies, of individual cases.

Setting up New Refineries in Andhra Coastal Towns

2701. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) whether in view of the increase in the production of Oil and Natural Gas in the country under different new projects, there is a proposal under Government's consideration for setting up of new refineries;

(b) if so, whether there is a Proposal to set up any new refineries in one of the Andhra Coastal towns; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM); (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Applications for Allotment of Gas Agencies and Petrol Pumps

2702. SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI:
SHRI SAGAR RAYKA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of applications for allotment of LPG agencies and petrol pumps have been received from various parts of Gujarat, Bombay, Maharashtra and Delhi during the period from 1st January, 1985 to 29th February, 1988;

(b) how many of the applicants are (1) women (2) War widows (3) Ex-servicemen (4) Deaf (5) Dumb (6) Blind (7) disabled persons or belong to the (8) Scheduled Castes/Tribes (9) Backward/Minority Communities; and

(c) the details of the gas agencies and pertol pumps given during the above period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) In view of the fact that during the period between January 1, 1985 and February 29, 1988 around 340 locations for LPG distributorships and Retail Outlet dealerships were advertised by the Oil Industry and several applications are usually received against each advertisement, the effort involved in compilation of the information would not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be served;

(c) The information is given be low:—•

State/City	Number awarded	
	LPG (Retail outlet Petrol/ Diesel)	RO
1. Gujarat	71	81
2. Maharashtra	12J	94
3. Bombay	22	6
4. Delhi	73	4
TOTAL:	287	185

lndo-American projects

2703 SHRI RAOOF VILIULLAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nine lndo-American projects involving USD 2.7 million have been approved by Government;

(b) what are the agencies involved in funding and implementing the projects and the areas of development;

(c) whether more projects are likely to be approved and the total finance involved and the areas identified for such an investment; and

(d) whether Government will accept offers from other developed countries to fund collaborative projects to help small and medium industries develop market-oriented technologies in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Nine R and D project? involving US 2.7 million, being undertaken jointly by Indian and US companies, were sanctioned as on October 31, 1987, under the Programme for Advancement of Commercial Technology (PACT).

(b) and (c) The projects are being, jointly undertaken by Indian and US companies and cover the fields of electrical equipment, paper, foor processing, pest control, pharmaceuticals and environmental protection, and are being funded partly by the sponsoring companies and partly by assistance under PACT. Further projects which are eligible for such assistance may also be approved in future, and the total finance involved would depend on such approvals.

(d) Each offer of assistance will be considered on the basis of its merits and essentiality.

Action by M.R.T.P. Commission

2704. SHRIMATI ELA RAMESH BHATT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bin-nies' Aristocrat is being heavily advertised under the cover of Prime Mineral Water in large sized bottles as reported in the Times of India of the 6th February, 1988;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such large sized bottles are not available anywhere in the capital and this is a ruse to advertise the same brand name whisky to beat the ban on alcoholicdrinks; and

(c) whether MRTPC or Consumer Affairs Department have initiated action against such defaulters and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN OTHE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM); (a) to (c) The-M.R.T.P. Commission having considered that the advertisement which appeared in the Times of. India newspaper dated 6-2-1988 fell within the ambit of Section 36A of the MRTP